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## Editor's Notes

Just a century ago that delightful collection of literary productions known as "The Sketch Book," containing such never-dying popular compositions as "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and "Rip Van Winkle," written by Washington Irving, using the name "Geoffrey Crayon," was first published, and made its author famous. Twenty years after, shortly following the founding of the Georgia Historical Society, Mr. Irving was elected an honorary member of the new organization. That he was well pleased with the Society's action we are certain, having the assurance of that distinguished man in the following characteristic letter, written to Mr. Tefft, the Society's Corresponding Secretary:

"Greenburgh, July 21st, 1839.

"Dear Sir:

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, informing me of my being elected an honorary member of the Georgia Historical Society.

"I beg you to express to the Society the grateful sense I entertain of this very flattering mark of their esteem.

"With best wishes for the prosperity of your institution, I remain, dear sir,

"Very respectfully

"Your ob't serv't,

"(Signed) WASHINGTON IRVING."

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Another very popular American author was, at the same time, elected one of the Society's honorary members. This was the novelist and historian, James Fenimore Cooper.

Miss Mary E. Phillips, in her volume, "James Fenimore Cooper," published in 1913, wrote (page 281): "On July 8, of this year (1839), Cooper was made a member of the Georgia Historical Society, and the following autumn 'Mercedes of Castile' came from the press."

In acknowledging the honor conferred upon him, Mr. Cooper wrote this letter to Mr. Tefft:

"Otsego Hall,  
"Cooperstown, July 29, 1839.

"Sir:

"Your communication, containing the information that the Georgia Historical Society has done me the honor to elect me a member, has just reached me.

"I beg you to acquaint the Society with the high sense I entertain of its compliment, and with my acceptance of the distinction, together with my grateful acknowledgments.

"As I ascribe the honor to my own recent little attempt in history,\* I shall ask the favor of the Society, as soon as a second and *corrected* edition of the work appears, to place a copy of it in its library.

"Will you permit me also to thank you for the trouble you have taken in this matter, and believe me to be, sir,

"Your obliged servant, .

(Signed) J. FENIMORE COOPER."

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At the December meeting of the Georgia Historical Society, in the year 1899, Mr. Horace J. Smith, of London, presented a photograph of a document relating to the founding of the Colony of Georgia. As the proceedings in the matter of its presentation will doubtless be of interest to our readers, we make place for the same here:

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 14, 1899.

William Harden, Esq.,

Librarian of Historical Society of State of Georgia,  
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Sir:—About eleven months ago my father, Horace J. Smith, sent me the matter which I hereby send to you by express. In some way this matter has been lost for eleven months,

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\*"History of the United States Navy."

and diligent search had failed to reveal it until yesterday. I take pleasure in forwarding it to you and shall be glad to have you acknowledge to Mr. Smith its receipt, even after so long a time.

Trusting the matter may be of interest to you, I am, respectfully yours,

Ivy Lodge,  
Germantown,  
Philadelphia,  
U. S. A.

A. L. SMITH,  
Ivy Bank,  
School Road,  
Moseley,  
B'ham.

44 Grosvenor Road,  
Westminster Embankment,  
London, Dec. 3, 1898.

Dear Sir:—I send you herewith a photograph of a "Warrant," issued by the "Trustees for establishing the Colony of Georgia," to the vestry of St. Margaret, Westminster, to collect money for the purpose of sending "poor people to be settled and established in the Southern frontiers of South Carolina." The original was found by my friend, J. E. Smith, Esq., clerk of the now united parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, among the muniments of the vestry. By his kind permission, William H. Brand, Esq. (who describes himself as only an amateur, but whose work as you will see is as excellent as that of a professional) has taken a copy for me to send to you.

I am sure you will appreciate the courtesy of these gentlemen; the one who rescued and the other who provided a copy of this interesting historical relic. Oglethorpe, while in Parliament, visited a friend in prison for debt, and found him loaded with chains. This so affected Oglethorpe that by his efforts such persons and others were sent out as a military colony to act as a buffer between the Indians and South Carolina—a colony named for Carolus, King of England.

No other colony after this one, taking its name from its founder, George II, was christened after a British monarch. We have no "Guillielma" to commemorate William IV; nor "Victoria" on our list of States; for after the Revolution, we

were self-contained and adopted Indian names for our territories, except that we wished to honor "Washington" with one, and accepted "Louisiana" from the French.

I shall be pleased to be able to advise Mr. Smith and Mr. Brand of the safe arrival of this historical souvenir, and to serve you further in any historical researches, if so advised.

Very respectfully,

HORACE J. SMITH.

To Wm. Harden, Esq., Librarian of the Historical Society of the State of Georgia, Savannah.

Extract from a book issued as a Special report of the Westminster vestry entitled "From Pre-Reformation Times to the Present Day."

"The benevolence of Westminster might indeed, almost be said to be world-wide. At least one of the flourishing States of America is indebted to the Parish for material help at its foundation.

10th May, 1733. It having been requested by the trustees for establishing a colony in Georgia for the minister, churchwardens and principal inhabitants of this parish to take subscriptions and to gather and to collect money for the said charity.

It is agreed that this vestry will give them assistance therein provided the said corporation do furnish them with proper power.

A warrant under the seal of the State was received by the vestry in the following year, appointing the church wardens, and other parish officers, treasurers for the raising of funds. This warrant mounted on crimson silk, with its curious seal in clay, bearing a design of a silk worm on a mulberry leaf, was brought to light at the Town Hall a few years ago, and suitably framed for preservation."

List of vestrymen present at the meeting of the vestry, held on the 10th May, 1733:

Rev. Rich. Widmore, John Grainger, Esq., Nathl. Blackerly, Mr. Matthias Sayer, William Lowndes, Esq., Mark Freker, Esq., Mr. John Atkinson, William Ireland, Esq., Richard

Farwell, Esq., Mr. John Alford, Capt. Samuel Tufuell, John Dives, Esq., Mr. John Williams, Mr. Richard Nurse, Alex. Chocke, Esq., Mr. Wm. Skelton, John Lawton, Esq., Mr. James Stedman.

MR. GRAHAM,  
MR. THOS. NOWELL, Churchwardens.

The Vestry of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster.  
Vestry Offices, Town Hall,

Westminster, S. W.

Horace J. Smith, Esq.

20th, October, 1898.

44 Grosvenor Road, S. W.

Dear Sir:—Your inquiry relating to the warrant for the State of Georgia, with special reference to its bearing the same date as the resolution of the vestry, is quite reasonable, and, at the same time, capable of an easy answer. The meetings of the vestry were held at the time under review, as early as 8 o'clock in the morning, in the vestry room adjoining the church. The office of the trustees of the funds, in Old Palace yard, was quite close to the vestry room, so that there would be no difficulty in the resolution of the vestry being conveyed to them, and in the warrant being agreed upon and made out by the trustees on the same day. The fact that the receipt of the warrant is not recorded until "the following year," as shown in the record you have copied, is probably due to its having been handed in, at the close of their task, by those who had undertaken the collection. The amount collected does not appear to have passed through the church warden's accounts, for there is no entry relating to it in the year 1733, or either of the next two following years.

I enclose a list of the names of the vestrymen present when the collection was undertaken, in case it may be useful hereafter for comparison with the records of the trustees.

The warrant was clearly not a "brief" in the same sense as other licenses resorted to for collections at the time. No mention is made of it in the register of briefs laid in St. Margaret's parish, nor does Mr. Bewes, in his comprehensive volume on

"Briefs," refer to it in any way. Such documents were printed and entered at the Court of Chancery, whereas the Georgia warrant is an original document in manuscript, under the seal of the trustees, and bears no indorsement of the entry.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed.)

J. E. SMITH,

Vestry Clerk.

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS his Majesty hath been graciously Pleased to take into Consideration that many of his poor Subjects, and many Forreigners, who are willing to become his Subjects, are reduced to great necessities, and would gladly be settled in the British Provinces in America, where, by Cultivating the Lands at present Waste and desolate, they might not only gain a comfortable subsistence for themselves and Families, but also strengthen his Majesty's Colonies, and increase the Trade Navigation and Wealth of these Realms. AND WHEREAS, his Majesty hath declared it highly becoming his Crown and Royal Dignity to Extend his Fatherly Compassion even to the meanest and most unfortunate of his People, and to relieve the wants of his above mentioned poor Subjects, and that it will be highly conducive for the Accomplishing these ends, that a regular Colony of the said poor People be settled and established in the Southern Frontiers of South Carolina. AND WHEREAS his Majesty for the more orderly Carrying on the said good Purposes HATH by his Royal Charter bearing date the Ninth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord 1732 constituted a Body Politick and Corporate by the Name of THE TRUSTEES FOR ESTABLISHING THE COLONY OF GEORGIA IN AMERICA and hath granted unto the said TRUSTEES and their Successors for ever, certain Lands and Territories in South Carolina IN TRUST for Establishing the said Colony, and hath erected the same into an Independent Province by the name of GEORGIA. NOW KNOW YE that We the said Trustees being well assured of the Integrity and Humanity of the Minister Church Wardens and Gentle-

men of the VESTRY of the Parish of Saint Margaret Westminster and that they greatly desire the success and accomplishment of so Excellent a Work HAVE, by vertue of the Powers granted to Us by the said Charter at a Meeting of the said Corporation convened and assembled for that purpose, authorized and appointed and by these Presents DO for the Consideration aforesaid authorise and appoint the said Minister Church Wardens and Gentlemen of the Vestry of the Parish of Saint Margaret Westminster or any two or more of them to take Subscriptions and to gather and collect such Moneys as shall be by any Person or Persons contributed for the Purposes aforesaid and to transmit with all convenient Speed to us the said TRUSTEES, at our office in Old Palace Yard Westminster the Moneys so collected together with the names of the Persons and sums which each one shall contribute or subscribe, and in case any of the Contributors shall desire their Names to be Concealed then the Sums by them given respectively, that we the said TRUSTEES may be enabled from time to time to publish perfect Accounts of such Benefactions. GIVEN under our common Seal this TENTH DAY OF MAY 1733.

In making the presentation, in behalf of the donor, Mr. William Harden, the Society's Librarian, took advantage of the occasion to make the following remarks:

"But the interest of our society in this Church of St. Margaret is not confined to the incident of this evening, as I will now show.

"It may not be known to many of our members that the remains of Sir Walter Raleigh, with the exception of the head, which it is said was given to his wife at the time of his execution, and kept by her until her death, are buried in that church. The proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, at the June meeting, 1880, show that a suggestion had been made by the Rev. F. W. Farrar, then canon of Westminster and rector of St. Margaret's Church, now Dean of Canterbury, 'that a window in memory of Raleigh would be an appropriate tribute from Americans, in whose history his name occupies so prominent a place. A letter from Canon Farrar was read,



and a subscription paper, started by American residents in London, exhibited. The project excited considerable interest among the members present, and the president was requested to bring the matter to the attention of other historical societies. The subscription paper was committed to the treasurer for the gift of individual members.'

"The suggestion that the interest of other historical societies be invoked in this matter met with encouragement, and the proceedings of our Georgia Society show that at the December meeting, of the same year, 'the chairman read a letter from Hon. Robert C. Winthrop of Massachusetts concerning the placing of an American memorial window in St. Margaret's Church, at Westminster, London, in honor of Sir Walter Raleigh, and favoring strongly the scheme. Upon motion of Gen Lawton, this society subscribed £20 to this object.' The amount required for the purpose was readily subscribed, and the Massachusetts Historical Society, through which body the collections were made, sent to Canon Farrar £315. Mr. Winthrop, its president, participated in the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the window, and thus spoke of it in a letter to his vice-president, Dr. George E. Ellis, dated at Paris, May 17, 1882: 'Last Sunday morning I had a great treat at St. Margaret's, London, where the window in memory of Sir Walter Raleigh, which our society, at my suggestion, led off in subscribing for, was unveiled. A beautiful window it is, the large west window of the old Parliamentary Church, with full length figures of Queen Elizabeth, Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert. Lowell wrote the inscription for it, in verse. The sermon by Canon Farrar was admirable; full of kind feeling to America, and every way worthy of the window, of Raleigh, and of himself."

The inscription reads thus:

"The New World's sons, from England's breasts we drew  
Such milk as bids remember whence we came;  
Proud of her past wherefrom our present grew,  
This Window we inscribe with Raleigh's name."